



2004

## Recognizing Excellence

# Commissioner forges path for Port of Gwangyang

**By Maj. Terry Draper**  
837th Transportation  
Battalion Executive Officer

Gwangyang is a critical, strategic node within the Korean Theater of Operations. With the development of this worldwide port and its capabilities, it will play an integral part in the deployment and redeployment plans of U.S. Forces transiting the Korean theater.

The relationships generated between U.S. leadership and the Gwangyang Port Authority is additionally important. The individual spearheading that effort at Gwangyang is Mr. Baek Lee, the Commissioner of the Gwangyang Free Economic Free Trade Zone.

Mr. Baek has led the efforts to make initial operations at the Port of Gwangyang a complete success. His willingness to assist U.S. Forces through coordination with local support, military, safety and force protection agencies made the



PHOTO BY MR. RON DAY

**CDR George DeVries, 599th Transportation Group acting commander, presents Mr. Baek Lee, Gwangyang Free Economic Free Trade Zone Commissioner, with a group coin during a visit to the 599th Nov. 1.**

first four operations successful, and thereby set the stage for future missions through this massive gateway to the Korean theater.

Mr. Baek has provided outstanding and integral support to planning and operations, below are the highlights of his presence and initiative over the

past three months supporting the U.S. Forces Korea mission:

- ♦ Coordinated for all local fire, police and medical support to support the Port of Gwangyang operations free of charge, ensuring local authorities understood what was involved working with U.S. forces as well as providing a

training opportunity for those staff agencies.

- ♦ Worked with the Republic of Korea military forces to ensure understood potential, future requirements at the joint and combined level for port operations.

- ♦ Ensured all U.S. vessels calling on Gwangyang had waterside security support from the Maritime Port Police.

- ♦ Coordinated for Korea National Railroad to increase the size of trains arriving at Gwangyang, increasing the flow of US equipment transiting the port facilities.

- ♦ Provided fixed facilities on the port for U.S. units to use as their command and control headquarters during all operations.

Mr. Baek is a critical component to the success of the 837th Transportation Battalion. The Battalion has enjoyed conducting operations at the Port of Gwangyang, and looks forward to a prosperous future working together.

## Carriers to see vessel operation increases with OIF III movements

Vessel operations for Operation Freedom Iraqi III will be similar to previous shipment volumes handled during the second phase of vessel operations for the war, according to a top official at the U.S. military's Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.

Up to 314 vessel operations are planned between Sept. 1 and April 2005, said William Lucas, deputy to the commander at SDDC.

"These are comparable shipments" to Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Lucas said in a speech to the Washington Chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association on Sept. 23. During Operation Iraqi Freedom II, 330 vessel operations were conducted.

Overall cargoes projected for the third phase of vessel deployments are 11.4 million square feet and 9.6 million square feet projected for redeployment, Lucas said.

The biggest operations will take place in Southwest Asia where 87 discharges and 70 loadings will take place. In the United States, 141 vessel operations are planned, including 82 loadings and 59 discharges. In Europe, 14 vessel operations are planned, including four loadings and 10 discharges, Lucas said.

The cargo will be transported by a combination of Military Sealift Command, Ready Reserve Fleet, and U.S.-flag commercial ships.

(Courtesy of SDDC)



**UPDATES FROM PAGE 1**

expanded to OCONUS shippers and SDDC offices in May 2005. Shippers will submit their Export Traffic Release Requests (ETRRs) on line and will receive the Export Traffic Release (ETR) electronically as well. This step forward will standardize many locally developed communication methods and provide much improved management visibility and reporting data. Training for all affected customers/shippers will be provided prior to implementation. More detail will follow as it becomes available.

**MSC to the Rescue!:** Like Mighty Mouse, the Military Sealift Command Charter vessel SS Wilson has arrived in PACOM to save the day! A six month backlog of big, ugly, oversized cargo sits in Naha and Pusan awaiting movement to CONUS. Hearing our cry for "Help!," MSC will move more than 8,000 Measurement Tons of general cargo, vehicles and hazardous material to Port Hueneme during the first two weeks of November. An absence of normally scheduled RORO vessels, extremely scarce space on East bound container vessels and higher priority

Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom movements combined to create this problem. We anticipate a return to normal shipping schedules in late December.

**EXERCISE STRAT LIFT \$\$\$ CRUNCH??:** Canceling much needed unit training and Exercise participation? Need to get more equipment moved for less money? Exercise budget been slashed? These questions represent a criti-

cal challenge for all logisticians and planners throughout PACOM. One possibly fruitful area to explore is the need to deploy and redeploy munitions, an expensive portion of the strategic lift that often requires a separate vessel! Someone out there has the answers to solve this problem! Does the answer lie in pre-positioning? Eliminating the retrograde? Better Host Nation Support? Let's get creative and find a way to spend those \$\$ more wisely!



PHOTO BY CDR RANDALL RAMIAN

**THE ROLE IN SOUTHWEST ASIA**

**A Military Sealift Command vessel arrives at the Port of Ash Shuiaba in August. SDDC's presence here was formalized Oct. 1 with the formation of the 595th Transportation Terminal Group (Provisional) at Camp Spearhead, Kuwait.**

**599th Transportation Group Instant Contacts****Operations**

Lt. Col. J. Reggie Hall  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
DSN: 456-4710  
COM: 808-656-4710  
hallj@pac.sddc.army.mil

Mr. Rich Wilson  
Deputy ACS  
DSN: 456-3430  
COM: 808-656-3430  
wilsonr@pac.sddc.army.mil

**USC Management Office, Pacific**

Mr. Gordon Lowe  
Chief  
DSN: 456-6520  
COM: 808-656-6520  
loweg@pac.sddc.army.mil

Mr. Buddy Lowery  
OCCA Pacific  
DSN: 473-5160  
COM: 808-473-6520  
loweryr@pac.sddc.army.mil

Ms. Phyllis (Sam) Sherwood  
OCCA Pacific  
DSN: 456-6920  
COM: 808-656-6920  
sherwoodp@pac.sddc.army.mil

Mr. Don Dellinger  
USC Quality Assurance  
DSN: 456-1910  
COM: 808-656-1910  
dellingerd@pac.sddc.army.mil

**Command Operations Center (24-hour)**

DSN: 456-0731  
COM: 808-656-0731  
599th-COC@pac.sddc.army.mil

**SDDC Field Office - Guam**

Mr. Pete Lujan  
Chief  
DSN: 339-8145  
COM: 671-339-8145  
lujanp@pac.sddc.army.mil

**Terminal Management (Cargo Bookings)**

Mr. Foster Rogers  
Chief (835th - Okinawa)  
DSN: 648-7721  
rogersf@pac.sddc.army.mil

Mr. Larry Willis  
Chief (836th - Yokohama)  
DSN: 269-6513  
willisl@pac.sddc.army.mil

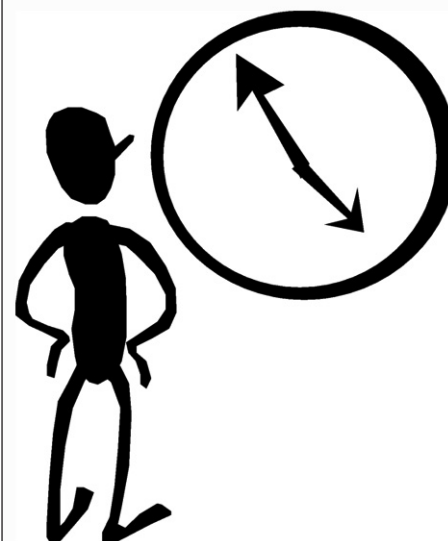
Mr. Keli'i Bright  
Chief (837th - Korea)  
DSN: 763-7163  
blakem@pac.sddc.army.mil

**Command Group**

Ms. Robyn Mack  
Command Affairs Officer  
DSN: 456-6420  
COM: 808-656-6420  
FAX: 808-656-0730  
mackr@pac.sddc.army.mil

*Movement Masters of the Pacific*

**What have you done lately to reduce customer wait time?**



# Deployments, lessons learned, exercise preparations ...

**By Mr. Ron Day**  
*Chief, Plans and Readiness*

The fourth quarter has been very busy for the 599th Transportation Group Headquarters and 837th Transportation Battalion outreach teams. The teams have ensured the safe movement and loading of equipment and cargo for the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division from Korea, the Hawaiian National Guard, and units from the 25th Infantry Division -- all deploying to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

This was a challenge for the 599th since many of the personnel assigned to the Group are deployed to SWA in support of OIF / OEF.

The outreach teams, augmented by Surface Deployment and Distribution



PHOTO BY MS. TERRI KOJIMA

**Sgt. 1st Class Greg Holsclaw, 599th Transportation Group, attaches a Radio Frequency Identification tag to an 25th Infantry Division container ready for shipment.**

Command Deployment Support Brigades, assisted the units with writing data to the RFID tags and placing them on the equipment and cargo, then as the equipment and cargo was loaded aboard the

vessels, the data was captured into the ITV network.

The deployment of the 599th from Hawaii to Kuwait was two-fold, one the Group stood up a new organization called SDDC SWA (Fwd) and

the second was to implement the SDDC Container Management Program for SWA. This involved tracking containers from the depot or installation in CONUS to the foxhole in Iraq.

Afghanistan and Kuwait utilizing RFID technology and of course sometime we had to use the old fashion method, pen and paper. Both missions focused on SDDC's ever growing distribution support to the warfighter.

During the same time-frame, we shifted a small number of personnel to support one of the largest exercises on the Korean peninsula, Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL). We integrated our active and reserve component personnel alongside our Republic of Korea (ROK) counterparts, which ensured mission success.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE GARVIN, MATSON

## MIGHTY UPLOAD

**The Great Land in port near the USS Missouri Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for the upload of cargo and equipment for the 29th Brigade Combat Team in September.**

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### How are we doing?

Feedback is vital to improving service. People with comments about SDDC's service may access the customer response form on the SDDC Web site at <http://www.sddc.army.mil> (Global Cargo Distribution window). Questions and comments specific to the 599th Transportation Group and units, can e-mail [cao@pac.sddc.army.mil](mailto:cao@pac.sddc.army.mil).